

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. While the leadership of media corporations is clearly within their free speech rights to air what ever programming they see fit on their stations. Media outlets also have a responsibility to provide fair, accurate, and truthful reporting to the American public.

In this instance, Sinclair Broadcasting is using the public airwaves free of charge, and is not fulfilling its obligation under the law to serve the public interest. Instead, it is deliberately providing the American public with misinformation before a crucial decision for the future of our country.

This is an example of what can happen through media consolidation and when the FCC chooses not to exercise regulatory role. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. We also get less news about our communities and more controlled information.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I urge you to censor Sinclair for these actions and urge them to reconsider their decision.

Thank you.